

IN THE ABSTRACT:

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Abstract

Any size and location of concatenated packet data across Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) frames in a SONET signal is provided. In one embodiment, a method may include receiving portions of packets and placing the portions into buffers. Additionally, the method may determine packet boundaries among the portions of packets in the buffers to locate a number of packets. Additionally, the method may concatenate the packet data into a Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) SONET signal. The concatenation can be across any locations within the TDM SONET signal, and the size of the concatenation can be in increments of single SONET frames. In another embodiment, the number of packets may be concatenated within locations in the TDM SONET signal not occupied by the TDM data traffic. In one embodiment, the TDM SONET signal having the concatenated packet data may be transmitted.